

The current proposal to relax media ownership rules is clear evidence of the FCC's disregard for its mandate to ensure access to diverse viewpoints in broadcasting over the public airwaves. The FCC's justification of its authority in broadcast regulation is rooted in the special case of limited broadcast bandwidth in context of the first amendment right to free and open discourse. Allowing a shrinking number of multinational corporate interests to control more and more of that bandwidth is a clear violation of that mandate, and in principle is unquestionably counterproductive to protecting the public interest. That the commission is currently accused of flagrant abuse of the public trust in receiving tangible personal benefit from the very industries it is mandated to regulate is obvious evidence of deep-rooted corruption, and the commission's refusal to consider a postponement of this vote in order to provide access for open public debate is an ironic travesty. At this writing, more than 70% of unaffiliated individuals (based on a polling sample of about 1200) are unaware that the issue is even being considered. This lack of public awareness is in itself evidence of the overwhelming control of these corporations in manipulating news content, as a result of the earlier relaxation of media ownership rules by the commission. A vote for the relaxation of media ownership rules is a slap in the face to the consumers the FCC is obligated to protect, and is directly countermanded by the FCC's mandate.

More comprehensive discussion of my views and those of other interested 'unaffiliated individuals' may be found at <http://nikflorida.com>

Sincerely,

Nik Bramblett